

## Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 EB-11 COME-00 AID-20

TRSY-11 DRC-01 /133 W

----- 012302

R 221435Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6278

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 2473

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP EG

SUBJ: SUEZ CANAL SALVAGE

REF: CAIRO 1775

1. ALI MAHMOUD OF SUEZ CANAL AUTHORITY (SCA) CALLED A/DCM APRIL 22 TO EXPRESS ONCE AGAIN SCA'S CONCERN OVER THE DELAY IN CONCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS WITH MURPHY PACIFIC. SCA DIRECTOR MASHHOUR HAD TOLD MAHMOUD TO CALL THE EMBASSY AND TO POINT OUT THAT THE MINE CLEARING OPERATION WAS NOW MOVING FORWARD EXPEDITIOUSLY. THE SHIP "MECCA", THE LARGEST VESSEL LOCATED AT THE NORTHERN END OF THE CANAL WILL BE CLEARED OF MINES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, AS WILL SEVERAL WRECKS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE CANAL.

2. SCA WANTS SALVAGE OPERATIONS TO BEGIN PROMPTLY, SINCE THE PROJECT ENVISAGES SALVAGE WORK MOVING RIGHT ALONG BEHIND EXPLOSIVES CLEARANCE ACTIVITIES. SCA BELIEVES VALUABLE TIME IS NOW BEING LOST SINCE THERE ARE NUMEROUS THINGS WHICH SHOULD AND MUST BE DONE PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF HEAVY LIFT VESSELS. IT  
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IS UNDERSTOOD LATTER WOULD TAKE APPROXIMATELY THREE

MONTHS TO COME FROM SUBIC BAY. IN MEANTIME, HOWEVER, WORK SHOULD BE DONE ON REMOVAL OF SUPER-STRUCTURE OF WRECKS.

3. IN VIEW OF THE PRESSURES GENERATING HERE AND THE FACT THAT ALL EYES ARE NOW FOCUSED ON SUEZ CANAL CLEARANCE, WE URGE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BE DONE TO ASSIST MURPHY PACIFIC AND THE NAVY TO MOVE OUT PROMPTLY ON THE SALVAGE PROJECT. SCA HAS NOT HEARD FROM BARRACCA IN SOMETIME. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT HE CONTACT SCA AND PROVIDE IT WITH SOME INFORMATION TO EASE THEIR APPREHENSIONS. ADDITIONALLY, WE REQUIRE INSTRUCTIONS WHAT TO TELL SCA ABOUT WHEN CONTRACT REVIEW WILL BE COMPLETED, WHO WILL SUPERVISE MURPHY PACIFIC OPERATION AND EXPECTED TIMING OF BEGINNING OF SALVAGE OPERATION.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** SUEZ CANAL SALVAGE  
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